

ASKS PROVINCE FOR GUARANTEE

Pickering Township Sends a
Resolution to Premier
Drury

GIVES SERVICE AT COST

Pickering Township Council has sent to Premier Drury the following resolution relating to the construction of the Toronto & Eastern Railway:

"To the Hon. E. C. Drury, Premier:

"In reference to the Toronto & Eastern Railway, the Municipal Council of the township of Pickering respectfully submit to you their position in the matter:

"The building of the Toronto & Eastern was not an issue; the issue being whether it should be done by the Canadian National Railways without local responsibility, or whether the municipalities should assume all responsibility in order that they could control the local transportation.

"We looked for a Provincial guarantee, not to relieve us of responsibility, but with the object, if possible, of lessening the cost of financing. If the guaranteeing of our bonds is considered a serious obligation on the part of the Province, then we do not want it. If to secure that guarantee means further delay we would be much better without it, as the rapid growth going on in that part of Toronto and its suburbs and Oshawa, through which the road runs, also the interest on the \$750,000 already invested will soon add to the capital expenditure of the undertaking more than any advantages of the guarantee.

"In the interest of our people, we hold strongly to the view that in order to control our suburban transportation, it is better by far to be done on our own credit rather than by the exploiting of our credit, either by the Federal Government or Provincial Government, and lose control. In coming to this conclusion we are not unmindful of the following facts:

"No matter what system of transportation is considered the great city of Toronto and its suburban area brings no burden to this country or to this Province. In your creditable policy of good roads, Toronto and its suburban area gives thousands of dollars in excess of your grants to this area to distribute annually throughout the Province of Ontario. The cost of transportation of the steam roads, if based on the earn-

ings of Toronto and its suburban area, would be materially reduced instead of increased. In this respect, we pay higher rates than necessary on our own account. Also, we pay no mean proportion of the deficit in order that less populous parts of this country can enjoy reasonable transportation facilities.

Give Service at Cost.

"In any great city, like Toronto and its suburban area, 80 per cent. of the people do not own automobiles, nor will they to-morrow or the next day. Their almost sole means of transportation is street cars and radials. It is our wish and intention, as a Municipal Council, that they have it at cost, not subject to National Steam Railways or private corporation, but under the control of the municipalities themselves. The municipalities interested in the Toronto & Eastern in any of their local undertakings have never been any burden to this Province. The Toronto & Eastern is simply and solely a suburban railway. Already there is money invested in the most valuable of any line running from Toronto to Bowmanville; it is the only line so located as to serve the people. This of all lines should be electrified and used by the people. So far as the membership of Pickering is concerned, we will take care of our guarantee, and we understand that Toronto, which guarantees one-half the undertaking, will do the same, also some of the other municipalities. In this way, the Province guarantee becomes a small proportion of the undertaking.

"We further respectfully submit that, whereas the ratepayers of this section, through their Municipal Council, have by by-law made contracts with the Hydro Commission to acquire the Toronto & Eastern and complete the same on their responsibility, we therefore request that the necessary orders in Council be passed at once."